

1. DATE - TIME GROUP Fall 1963	2. LOCATION Thaxton, Virginia
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION THISTLE BLOOMS
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS Multiple	Finally observed thistle bloom at close range. Thistle bloom is 1-1 1/2 inches in diameter.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Not Reported	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	Bright silver object in sky. Thought to be high in sky. Finally observed objects less than 100 ft instead of at great height. Object moving with wind. Letter submitting the observed phenomenon as a possible solution for other observations of this nature.
7. COURSE Falling	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p style="text-align: center;">RETURN TO:</p> <p>Director Aerospace Studies Inst ATTN: Archives Branch Maxwell AFB, Alabama</p> </div>
8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

K243.6012-1
Oct 1963

East of me, and 15 miles south of the Air Force
• Radar station on Apple Orchard mountain, and I
• was about 20 miles south of it. For some
reason I had no desire to mention it to any-
one & didn't, in fact the whole thing left me
with a feeling of great fear. During this time the sky &
atmosphere appeared to be full of tiny, fine objects the size of pins.
SHINY

The nearest thing that I ever saw resembling it
in a natural way was when I have seen glister-
ing clusters of thistle fetal blooms when caught
in an up draft - (draught) rising skyward a
few hundred feet & shoot obliquely at an
angle in a cross current of air. There must be
many larger blossoms across the South West & U.S.

Sometimes I wonder if some of your report's
aren't physiologically after re-examining & look-
ing at it objectively, I still swear by this report &
have not and will not discuss it with reporters.
Sincerely,

THAXTON, VA FALL 63

CASE INCLUDES ONE (1)

ENVELOP OF THISTLE BLOOMS

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
THAXTON, VA.

FTD



U.S. Air Force
U. F. O., unidentified flying objects
% → THE PENTAGON
Washington
D. C.

3 A F O I

(Delivered)
THAXTON, VA.

9 December 1964

Dear [REDACTED]

Your observation of floating thistle blooms is an interesting case, and it falls into the general category of evaluations of reported "angel hair".

Similar observations which have been reported on many occasions included migrating spider web, rayon residue from broken chemical plant filters, and several silver halides from cloud seeding operations. All three of these phenomena appear in the same manner which you described in your sighting during the latter part of the fall of 1963.

The Air Force appreciates your contributions to this program and will add this unique observation to the various causes of unidentified flying object reports.

Sincerely,

MASTON M. JACKS
Major, USAF
Chief, Pictorial Branch
Public Information Division
Office of Information

Mr. [REDACTED]
Thaxton, Virginia

1003639

HEADQUARTERS
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO



REPLY TO TDEW
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: UFO Sighting, Fall of 1963, Thaxton, Virginia

2 Dec 64

10: Hq USAF SAFOI PB [REDACTED]
Wash D C 20330

This office is in receipt of a letter from [REDACTED]
Thaxton, Virginia, providing information on a sighting of his
in the fall of 1963. The following is a suggested reply:

Dear [REDACTED],

Your observation of floating thistle blooms is indeed an
interesting case and it falls into the general category of
evaluations of reported "angel hair".

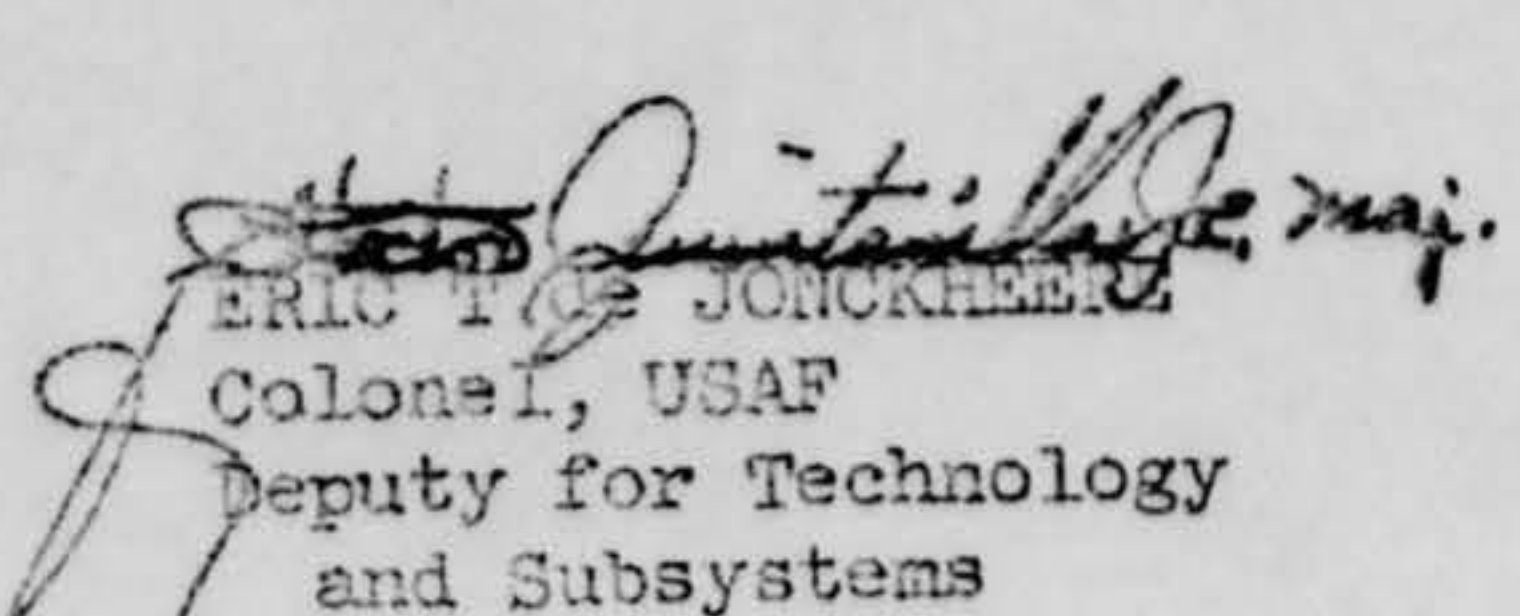
Similar observations which have been reported on many
occasions included migrating spider web, rayon residue from broken
chemical plant filters and several silver halides from cloud seed-
ing operations. All three of these phenomena appear in the same
manner which you described in your sighting during the latter
part of the fall of 1963.

The Air Force appreciates your contributions to this program
and will add this unique observation to the various causes of
unidentified flying object reports.

Also, it is unusual for most private citizens to have a feeling
for the relationship of sizes and their distances of the objects which
they report. This is just one of the many problems which confront
the scientists and specialists who evaluate the UFO reports. Again,
we wish to express our appreciation for an excellent report.

Sincerely,

FOR THE COMMANDER


ERIC F. JONCKHEERE
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Technology
and Subsystems



YOU - THE NUCLEUS OF SECURITY!

U.S. Air Force.
U.F.O.; Unidentified Flying Objects
The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Nov. 25, 1964

my dear Sir,

During recent years when our citizens became U.F.O.'s happy, its my theory that they suddenly became conscious of looking sky-ward, and saw varied objects which had previously been un-noticed.

During the late fall in 1963, I noticed things glittering in the air about 100 or more feet above me, & upon carefully checking & discovering ^(I BELIEVE) them to be the petals of the bloom of the Thistle, a prickly weed, which was 1 to 1 1/2 inches in diameter, silky, white color. This was a cool, clear day & as the sun's bright light made them glitter in the air, and from different angles they appeared large & the wind would make them zoom in different directions & made them appear like large silvery objects at great distance in the sky. Finally I at first was certain that I had seen an U.F.O., and since I kept observing was able to identify some sort of petal from some bloom zooming about in the breeze, which could have been seen at hundred feet distance away.

—Page one— of 2

Page 2 of 2

It is my belief that due to the clear bright day, with a very slow breeze, that the petals from the bloom getting caught in different cross-winds, or currents of air, and by seeing them from different angles that they shined & appeared just like large silvery objects at a great distance. It absolutely had me fooled until I was able to see some of those blooms less than fifty feet away.

I am enclosing two sort of blooms & perhaps if dried thoroughly & thrown into the air in a large well lit room and with the aid of electric fans you may get the same picture which I saw.

Should this prove what I have in ^{my} mind regarding the U.F.O. story, I would appreciate having a reply on your finding.

Sincerely yours

~~_____~~
Hayden
Virginia

Dept. of the Air Force
Musten M. Jack & Major, USAF
Chief Pic. Branch, SAFOI-PB
Washington, D.C.

Thayton, Virginia
Dec. 22, 1964

My dear Sir:

In reference to your letter dated 12-9-64, I wish to make the following remarks:

I am 60, retired, 11 1/2 years Army Enl., 24 years Inea Dept. & subit.

I live in the hills 20 miles ^{West} south of the A. Force Radar Station on Apple Orchard Mt., which is 20 miles north of the Town of Belford.

There's much air force activities over my farm land.

That I just finished reading an U.F.O.'s article in TRUE Magazine this week, by Ret. Major Donald E. Keffee, USMC.

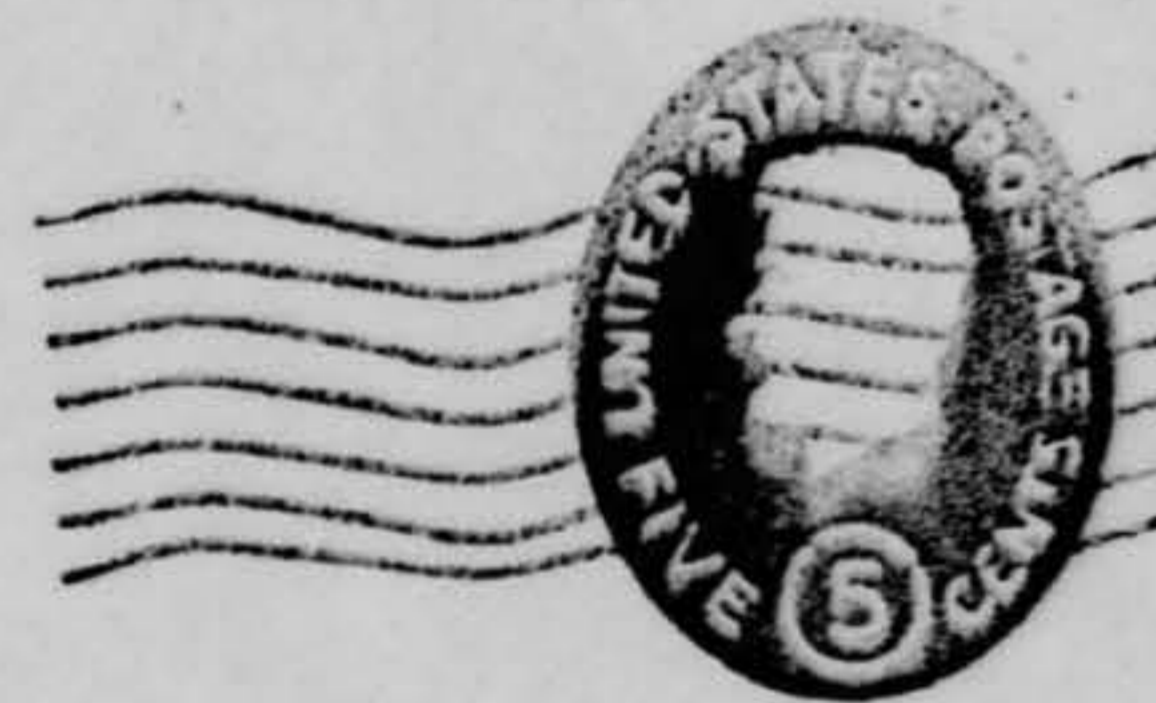
In reference to the floating thistle blooms, I wish to state that what I saw in the air only appeared to be those petals, and I did not identify them as such.

In the city of Roanoke the city has a lighted star 100 foot in diameter + the other night I observed it at a distance of 10 miles.

On the day that I sighted the U.F.O., I was standing near some low cut buildings, which have a galvanized tin roof 30 x 30 feet in diameter. At the time I became conscious of this happening I found myself gazing skyward and noticed a complete quietness. Almost immediately I noticed hundreds of the atmosphere appeared full of tiny, silvery objects glittering, possibly no more than 2 inches in any direction & as diameter.

I definitely recall having a sort of hypnotized feeling.

[REDACTED]
Thompson, Va.



att: → Department of the Air Force
Master M. J. G. M., Major, USAF
RE - SAF-1-PB
Chief Pictorial Branch
Washington 20330
P. G.

Maston M. Jacks
Major, U. S. A. F.
Chief, Pic. Br. Washington, D.C.

~~REDACTED~~
Roanoke, Va.
Sept. 8, 1965

My dear Major;

RE. U.F.O.

My letter of 1-11-65 may be disregarded, because it must have been a large plane, with small wings. However, my letters of 11-25-64 and 12-22-64 are sincere.

That which I did not report is as follows:—
on a clear, cool Fall day in 1963, I was standing in the sun by my garage, suddenly I felt my eyes being drawn skyward with a hypnotic feeling to an oval, saucer like thing about 10 o'clock position in the sky, and within 2 seconds it disappeared out of sight southward. It was about 100' diameter and 12' high. It was high over Bedford, Va., which is 9 miles

—Page 1 of 2—